

## ABSTRACT

Provided is a very thin elliptically polarizing plate having broadband and wide viewing angle, a simple method of producing the same, and an image display apparatus using the elliptically polarizing plate. An elliptically polarizing plate of the present invention includes a polarizer, a protective layer formed on one side of the polarizer, a first birefringent layer serving as a  $\lambda/2$  plate, and a second birefringent layer serving as a  $\lambda/4$  plate in the stated order. In the plate, an absorption axis of the polarizer and a slow axis of the first birefringent layer form an angle  $\alpha$  of one of  $10^\circ$  to  $20^\circ$  and  $-10^\circ$  to  $-20^\circ$ , and the absorption axis of the polarizer and a slow axis of the second birefringent layer form an angle  $\beta$  of one of  $65^\circ$  to  $85^\circ$  and  $5^\circ$  to  $25^\circ$ .